

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 05828 230826Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
/070 W

-----230833Z 092684 /21

O R 230735Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2902
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5828

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, UR
SUBJECT: INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS: THE GROMYKO VISIT

REF: DELHI 5474

1. A SOVIET EMBOFF SAID THAT THE PRIMARY INTENTION OF THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO IS TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE NEW INDIAN LEADERS. IN CONVERSATION WITH THE ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN APRIL 21, SOVIET FIRST SECRETARY GUELI SKRITSKY RECOUNTED PAST SOVIET SUPPORT FOR MRS. GANDHI, BUT EXPRESSED SOME SATISFACTION THAT THE DESAI ADMINISTRATION HAD RENEWED THE INVITATION TO MR. GROMYKO, "TO WHICH WE RESPONDED VERY RAPIDLY". SKRITSKY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE RUPEE/RUBLE AGREEMENT, ARMS SUPPLIES OR TRADE WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL, ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE MENTIONED. SOVIET
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 05828 230826Z

POLICY FOR INDIA, SKRITSKY STRESSED, REMAINS AS DECLARED AT THE 25TH CONGRESS IN MARCH 1976: "THE SOVIET UNION HAS ALWAYS FAVORED CLOSE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA".

2. DEFENSE MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM THIS WEEK CAME TO THE DEFENSE OF THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY. ALONG WITH HIS FELLOW CFD LEADER AND

MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUE H.N. BAHUGUNA, RAM WAS THE FEATURED SPEAKER AT A PUBLIC MEETING SPONSORED BY THE INDO-SOVIET CULTURAL SOCIETY, APRIL 20, IN OBSERVANCE OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS. BOTH RAM AND BAHUGUNA, WHO IS A VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY AND IS KNOWN FOR HIS LEFTIST AND CPI ASSOCIATIONS, SPOKE OF THE EARLY SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE AND THE DEEP AND ABIDING NATURE OF INDO-SOVIET TIES. BOTH MINISTERS ALSO NOTED THE ASSISTANCE WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN INDIA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY. SOVIET AMBASSADOR MALTISOV ALSO SPOKE AT THE MEETING. REFERRING TO THE INDIAN OCEAN, HE NOTED THAT THE USSR HAD DECLARED ITS READINESS TO SEARCH FOR WAYS TO REDUCE THE MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF NON-LITTORAL STATES IN THE REGION AND SAID THAT THE KEY PROBLEM OF TRANSFORMING THE INDIAN OCEAN INTO A ZONE OF PEACE WAS THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FOREIGN MILITARY BASES.

4. THE IMPACT OF THE CFD MINISTERS PRAISE OF THE SOVIETS WAS DIMINISHED, HOWEVER, BY THE REMARKS OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE APRIL 23 EDITION OF THE LEFTIST WEEKLY "BLITZ". DESAI DEFINED SOCIALISM AS FREEDOM FROM EXPLOITATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL. HE THEN SAID, "THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES CALL THEMSELVES SOCIALIST, BUT I DO NOT CALL THEM SOCIALIST, BECAUSE THERE IS THE GREATEST EXPLOITATION IN THAT SOCIETY". ASKED HOW THIS WAS SO, THE PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED, "THE RULERS EXPLOIT THE WHOLE POPULATION. HAVE THE POPULATION ANY VOICE? NOT ONLY THAT. IF YOU EXAMINE THE PATTERN YOU WILL FIND THAT THE RELATIVES OF THOSE WHO ARE RULING HAVE FAR GREATER OPPORTUNITY EVERYWHERE-- IN UNIVERSITIES, IN JOBS AND PROFESSIONS-- THAN THE ORDINARY CITIZEN. OUR TWO REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT SATISFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 05828 230826Z

AT ALL. THEREFORE, I SAY, THIS IS NOT SOCIALISM; IT IS COMMUNISM. SOCIALISM CAN NEVER BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT DEMOCRACY. DEMOCRACY IS THE ONLY WAY OF LIFE"...

5. EVEN SHARPER IS THE CRITICISM OF THE SOVIETS VOICED BY PROMINENT JANATA PARTY MP SUBRAMANIAM SWAMI OF THE ERSTWHILE JANA SANGH. AT PRESS CONFERENCES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA LAST WEEKEND, SWAMI DECLARED HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH THE GROMYKO VISIT AND SAID THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER HAD MADE "DISRESPECTFUL UTTERANCES" ABOUT JANATA PARTY LEADERS. GROMYKO, HE SAID, SHOULD BRING A LETTER OF APOLOGY FROM BREZHNEV TO PM DESAI REGARDING REMARKS SOVIET LEADERS HAVE MADE ABOUT DESAI AND JP NARAYAN. SWAMI ALSO SAID HE SAW NO JUSTIFICATION TO CONTINUE THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY AND THAT INDIA SHOULD FREE ITSELF FROM THE SOVIET UNION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. INDIA, HE SAID, SHOULD BE FRIENDLY WITH BOTH THE US AND USSR, "KEEPING AN EQUAL DISTANCE FROM BOTH".

6. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR, SOVIET EMBOFF SKRITSKY DISMISSED SUCH CRITICISM AS UNWORTHY OF

REPLY, BUT HE DID CONCEDE THAT SWAMI REPRESENTED THE THINKING
OF A CONSIDERABLE SEGMENT OF THE JANATA PARTY. SKRITSKY IN HIS
REMARKS CHOSE INSTEAD TO STRESS THE CONTINUITY OF SOVIET
POLICY, WHICH PARALLELS THE APPROACH ALSO BEING TAKEN BY THE
JANATA/CFD GOVT, NOTWITHSTANDING THE DIVERGENT VIEWS WITHIN ITS
RANKS
SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE05828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770142-0067
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770426/aaaaawad.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7ee16a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2714226
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS: THE GROMYKO VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, UR, IN, (GROMYKO, ANDREY ANDREYEVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7ee16a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009